

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for receiving and transporting electrical energy, comprising:
 - a storage device formed from a plurality of storage elements; and
 - a vehicle configured to carry the storage device and having a connection for receiving electrical energy from an external source and for transmitting electrical energy from the storage device to an external load, wherein the storage device is arranged as a payload for the vehicle and in the receiving and transmitting of the electrical energy the storage device remains arranged as a payload for the vehicle load; and
 - a monitoring device configured to monitor a number of charge/discharge cycles for each storage element and output a corresponding notification when a determined number of cycles is reached.
2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein the storage elements comprise accumulators.
3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein the plurality of storage elements are combined to form storage device groups.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising: fixed stations for charging up and discharging the storage device.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the fixed stations comprise:

intermediate storage devices for intermediate storage of the electrical energy.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising: at least one electrical collective connection for a plurality of storage elements.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising: at least one opening in each storage element for introducing or draining off a fluid.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising one or more collecting conduits which connect the openings of the storage elements together.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the collecting conduit opens into a container on board the vehicle.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in claim 11-1 wherein the monitoring device is configured to indicate an operating condition of at least one of individual storage elements or storage device groups.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11-1 wherein the monitoring device is arranged on board the vehicle.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11-1 wherein the monitoring device includes at least a microprocessor and a memory.

15.-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method of storing and transporting electrical energy by means of a vehicle carrying an electrical storage device as a payload, the storage device having a plurality of storage elements, comprising the steps of:

receiving electrical energy from a source external to the vehicle;
charging the storage device with the received electrical energy;
transporting the vehicle to a destination;
discharging the storage device at the destination;
draining a fluid contained in the storage device after charging of the electrical energy into the storage device but prior to transport of the storage device to the destination;
introducing a fluid into the storage device after transport of the storage device to the destination but prior to removal of the electrical energy fluid;
monitoring a number of charge/discharge cycles for each storage element;
element of the storage device; and
outputting a corresponding notification when a predetermined number of cycles is reached.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein the storage elements comprise capacitors.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising: fixed stations for converting the electrical energy.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising: a device for controlling a charging/discharging operation.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising: a device for supplying or removing fluid.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a device for controlling the charging/discharging operation and for supplying or removing fluid.

25. (Currently Amended) A vehicle, comprising:
means for storing electrical energy received from an external source at a first location, wherein the means for storing electrical energy is arranged as a payload for the vehicle;
and
means for discharging the stored electrical energy at a second location; location;
and
means for monitoring a number of charge/discharge cycles for individual storage
elements of the means for storing and outputting a corresponding notification when a determined
number of cycles is reached.

26. (New) The method as set forth in claim 19 further comprising:
cleaning the drained fluid; and
storing the cleaned fluid.

27. (New) The method as set forth in claim 19, further comprising removing a container of storage device fluid from the vehicle.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the storage device is arranged as a payload for the vehicle and in the receiving and transmitting of the electrical energy the storage device remains arranged as a payload for the vehicle